Another very interesting letter reached us from a Mr. William B. Armitage, Victoria Park, W. A. This letter describes the climate and native plants and on a separate list carries the names of about 200 varieties of hibiscus hibrids locally available. Some of these are recognizable as being grown here, but most of them are apparently unknown here and the descriptions are certainly enticing. Mr. Armitage also states that there are 18 species native to his state mostly of a mauve or Blue mauve color. "Notably H. Huegeli".

Mr. Armitage has been granted an honorary membership in the American Hibiscus Society. We think that the first member from "down under" richly deserves this honor.

In this connection, a blossom of H. Huegeli was recently sent to Mrs. Calais from Mrs. Adeline Walker of Santa Ana, California. This bloom was preserved by the use of powdered borax and pressed. Every detail is perfectly preserved, including the color. This idea is new to us and should prove invaluable in comparing specimens for nomenclature since the physical details remain easily identifyable.

Some varieties of H. Huegeli have been grown here for many years but in our experience will not cross with H. Rosa-sinensis. It grows readily from seed and will bloom when only a few inches high. We are hoping to import some of the better varieties of the species and try again to cross it.

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## HIBISCUS IN-DOORS

By

Evelyn Carter Nichols

Although hibiscus are considered an outdoor shrub in all the warmer climates, they lend themselves beautifully to indoor culture. Even as far back as George Washington's day they were grown in this country as an indoor plant in the winter and moved outside in tubs in the summer. Many plants were presented to George Washington by everyone from everywhere and he was really overloaded, but he took it upon himself to order hibiscus from nurserymen in Philadelphia by the name of John Bartram, in 1792; and grew them successfully. These plants came from the East Indies, India and Jamaica, and were red singles similar to Brilliant.

Though Hibiscus will grow in a variety of soils we find that ours grow better in a ¼ garden loam, ¼ peat, ¼ woods dirt, ¼ sand mixture, or in any mixture suitable for Saintpaulias. The plants should be fed at least once a week when grown in pots. This may seem like a lot but it is necessary to water them daily and this leaches away some of the nutrients. Then too, there is no dormant season for the indoor plant and it may be kept in bloom the year round. The soil must never be heavy, but light and porous so that the water will quickly run through the pot and out the bottom. Plants benefit from a weekly shower and this feat we can accomplish simply by covering the soil with paper and placing the whole plant in the bathtub with a tepid shower turned on gently.

Our plants are grown in 6-8 inch pots and this is always large enough for a plant which is kept around three feet high. The